



Region 1
490 N. Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

**Decision Notice
and
Finding of No Significant Impact
for
124 Permit Application from Flathead County
for Boat Ramp Construction on Church Slough
Environmental Assessment**

April 6, 2010

Description of the Proposed Action:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to issue a Montana Stream Protection Act permit to Flathead County for construction of a boat ramp and parking area on Church Slough.

Public Comment:

FWP accepted public comment on the draft environmental assessment (EA) for a 30-day period, from February 24, 2010, through March 25, 2010. The EA was advertised through media releases and legal notices in the Daily Inter Lake and Flathead Beacon. Copies of the EA were available from the Kalispell FWP office, on the FWP web site, and at the Montana State Library and the Flathead County Libraries.

Response to Comments:

Of the 86 comments received, 76 were in favor of the proposal, while 9 were against the proposal. One comment was neutral.

Opposition to FWP issuing the construction permit primarily focused on potential indirect impacts, including increased boat use and potential impacts to waterfowl and increased erosion of stream banks. Impacts to waterfowl migrations will largely be avoided since the ramp is only operable at high lake levels in summer and fall months. Both potential impacts may be mitigated through additional boating restrictions and regulations.

Support for FWP issuing the construction permit primarily focused on the need for additional public access to public waters and for the construction of a safer access at the site.

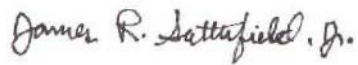
A summary of the comments is available from the FWP headquarters office in Kalispell.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):

Based on the analysis in the EA, I find Alternative B, FWP issuance of the construction permit, to be the preferred alternative. I have evaluated the EA and applicable laws, regulations, and

policies and have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

The final EA may be viewed at or obtained from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region One, 490 N. Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT 59901. Contact person: Fisheries Biologist Mark Deleray, (406) 751-4543 or e-mail to mdeleray@mt.gov.



April 6, 2010

James R. Satterfield, Jr., Ph.D.
Regional Supervisor

Date